REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated February 2, 2009 and received in this application. Claims 1-4 have been amended and new claims 5-6 have been added. These amendments add no new matter. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in light of these amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The drawings were objected to for failing to apply a legend such as --Prior Art-- to FIGs. 1 and 2. To expedite prosecution, Applicant has applied the legend requested by the Examiner in this submission.

Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,611,107 to Mikami et al. ("Mikami"). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended and now recites: *[a] method for operating a constant current circuit, comprising:*

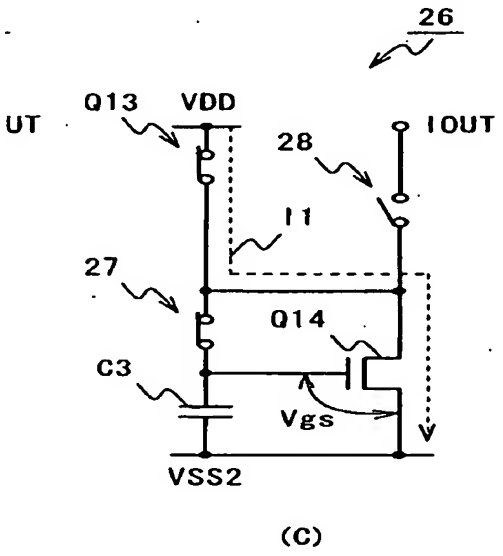
after connecting a sampling capacitor connected between a gate and a source of a transistor and a drain of the transistor to a reference current source and setting a voltage across the sampling capacitor to a voltage between the gate and the source produced while the transistor is driven by a reference current of the reference current source,

cutting off the connection among the sampling capacitor, the transistor and the reference current source, as well as connecting the drain of the transistor to a driving target, and driving the driving target by a current of the transistor due to the voltage between the gate and the source that is set in the sampling capacitor.

These claimed features are neither disclosed nor suggested by Mikami.

First, Mikami neither discloses nor suggests Applicant's claimed features of "*connecting a sampling capacitor connected between a gate and a source of a transistor and a drain of the transistor to a reference current source and setting a voltage across the sampling capacitor to a voltage between the gate and the source produced while the transistor is driven by a reference current of the reference current source.*"

By way of example, Applicant's FIGs. 7A-D illustrate the constant current circuit and FIG. 7C in particular illustrates an example of connecting the sampling capacitor while the transistor is driven by a reference current.



(C)

Fig.7

As explained in Applicant's specification:

"[a]s shown in FIG. 7(C), the switch circuits 27 and 28 of the constant current circuit 26 are respectively switched to the ON state and the OFF state, while the transistor Q13 starts operation to start outputting a reference current. Accordingly, in the constant current circuit 26, a reference current I1 due to the transistor Q13 charges the sampling capacitor C3, and flows out via the NMOS transistor Q14. The charge current of the sampling capacitor C3 gradually decreases as the voltage across the sampling capacitor C3 rises due to charging, and when the charge current reaches the gate-source voltage Vgs of the transistor Q14 that is required to cause the reference current I1 to flow out from the transistor Q14, the charge current stops flowing into the sampling capacitor C3, and in this state, all the reference current I1 due to the transistor Q13 flows into the transistor Q14. Accordingly, in the constant current circuit 26, the gate-source voltage Vgs of the transistor Q14 that is required to cause the reference current I1 to flow into the transistor Q14 is set in the sampling capacitor C3 by charging the sampling capacitor C3 connected between the gate and the source of the transistor Q14 by means of the reference current I1 while causing the reference current I1 to flow into the transistor Q14."

(U.S. Pub. No. 2006/0152461, at [0051]).

The operation of the circuitry in Mikami is decidedly different and offers no disclosure or suggestion of the claimed features of Applicant's invention. The Action alleges that the "reference current source" and the corresponding connection to the drain of the transistor is disclosed in FIG. 3 of Mikami, stating that "Drain of 7 connected through switches 20 and 21 to data line 3, which can be considered a reference current source." (Office Action, at p. 3).

First, the data line 3 is not a reference current source. In any event, the description of the operation of the circuitry disclosed in FIG. 3 of Mikami clearly counters the position in the Action. In Mikami, the sampling switch 20 is closed while the driving switch 21 is left open. In this fashion, the capacitor 5 is charged so that it will retain the voltage on the data line, and this is done independently from the transistor, which is disconnected from the capacitor since switch 21 remains open during this operation. Thus, even assuming that data line 3 could be fairly construed as a reference current source (which is not the case), it is impossible to conclude that Mikami discloses or suggests "*connecting a sampling capacitor connected between a gate and a source of a transistor and a drain of the transistor to a reference current source and setting a voltage across the sampling capacitor to a voltage between the gate and the source produced while the transistor is driven by a reference current of the reference current source*" since, among other things, the transistor is disconnected from both the capacitor and the data line at the time that the sampling capacitor is charged in Mikami.

Because Mikami fails to disclose, teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 1, a *prima facie* anticipation rejection has not been established, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested. *See, e.g., Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987) ("A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference"). *See also Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1989). ("The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.").

Claims 3-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mikami in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2006/0267899 to Yamazaki ("Yamazaki"). This rejection is traversed.

For reasons similar to those provided regarding claim 1 above, Mikami does not disclose or suggest at least the claimed features of "*connecting a sampling capacitor connected between a gate and a source of a transistor and a drain of the transistor to a reference current source and setting a voltage across the sampling capacitor to a voltage between the gate and the source produced while the transistor is driven by a reference current of the reference current source*," as claimed by Applicant.

Yamazaki discloses an LCD display that is said to avoid deterioration of the image due to image persistence. Yamazaki is relied upon for purported disclosure of a digital to analog conversion circuit, buffer circuit, and related features conceded to be absent from Mikami. However, Yamazaki offers no disclosure or suggestion of the above-described features that are also absent from Mikami.

Since even a combination of Yamazaki and Mikami would still fail to yield the features claimed by Applicant, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been presented regarding independent claim 3. Dependent claim 4 is also neither disclosed nor suggested by Mikami, for its incorporation of the distinct features recited in independent claim 3, as well as for its separately recited patentably distinct features.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mikami in view of Yamazaki.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-3056 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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